REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully

requested.

By the present Preliminary Amendment claims 1-15 are canceled without prejudice

and new claims 16-30 are presented for examination. New claims 16-30 are deemed to be

self-evident from the original disclosure, including the original claims, and thus are not

deemed to raise any issues of new matter. Further, new claims 16-30 are not believed to be

more narrow in scope in any aspect in comparison with canceled claims 1-15.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough

examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is

hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,

MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Gregory J. Maier

Attorney of Record Registration No. 25,599

Surinder Sachar

Registration No. 34,423

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000 Fax: (703) 413 -2220

(OSMMN 06/04) GJM/SS:aif

I:\ATTY\SNS\284629US-PR.DOC